

Recognized as a “Rising Star” by the American Guild of Organists (AGO), Dexter Kennedy is a concert organist, continuo player, church musician, and a passionate advocate for the promotion and advancement of the organ and its repertory. His concert programs present spirited performances that are both fiery, spontaneous, and historically informed, exciting both music connoisseurs as well as people who have never experienced the organ in concert setting. Mr. Kennedy won first prize in the 2009 AGO Region V Quimby Competition for Young Organists, and most recently was awarded the Third Prize at the 2013 Westfield Center International Organ Competition. In addition to concertizing,

Mr. Kennedy is increasingly active as a recitalist having performed at several celebrated venues, including St. Thomas Church, 5th Avenue, the Brick Church, and the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New York, The Church of the Advent in Boston, St. Joseph’s Cathedral in Hartford, Bower Chapel, Naples, Florida, The Community Church of Vero Beach, and National City Christian Church, Washington, D.C.. Last fall, he performed a recital at the Rozsa Centre for the Performing Arts at the University of Calgary as a featured Young Artist for the 2012 Calgary Organ Festival and Symposium. His performance at Boston’s First Lutheran Church in March 2013 was broadcasted live on WGBH Classical New England Radio as part of their “Bach Around the Clock” Festival. Forthcoming performances include a solo recital at Washington National Cathedral in January of 2014 and a tour to Barcelona with the University Chorale of Boston College.

An active organ accompanist, Kennedy toured Rome with the University Chorale of Boston College in 2013, including a Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica. Later that year he traveled with the choristers of the Seabury Academy of Music and the Arts in Norwalk, CT, to England, where he accompanied the ensemble in Worcester Cathedral, Winchester Cathedral, and St. George’s Chapel, Windsor Castle. As a teacher, Kennedy has twice served on the faculty of the Oberlin Summer Organ Academy for High School Students. As a participant of the 2012 Haarlem Summer Organ Festival and Academy, he performed on the famed 1738 Müller organ in the Grote of St. Bavokerk as part of the select student recital.

Kennedy holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Organ Performance from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, where he studied organ with James David Christie and Olivier Latry, harpsichord and continuo playing with Webb Wiggins, sacred music study with Jack Mitchener, and also studied orchestral conducting. He graduated as the recipient of the Selby Harlan Houston prize, for excellence in both organ and music theory, and also the Theodore Presser Scholarship, awarded for outstanding musical achievement.

Currently, Kennedy is a Masters Degree candidate at the Yale School of Music and Institute of Sacred Music as a recipient of the Robert Baker Award, a prize granted to a student deemed to be among the top 1 or 2 percent of the young organists in the country. He studies organ with Martin Jean, harpsichord with Arthur Haas, and improvisation with Jeffrey Brillhart. As a church musician, he currently serves as Director of Music and Organist for Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, Organ Scholar at St. Paul's on the Green Episcopal Church, Norwalk, CT, and as Organist for Marquand Chapel, Yale Divinity School. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing and vigorously rooting for the professional sports teams in his native Detroit.